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Army

EGQA-84559

Date: 4 December 1956

Info: EE

TO : Chief of Base, Munich
FROM : Chief of ~~Station~~ Station, Germany
SUBJECT: General - Operational /DETORIC/QUACTIVE
Specific - Bruno KALNINS -

REF : EGMA 22288, 25 July 1956

The CIC Central Registry files contain XXXX (following - see attachments) information on subject cited.

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DATE 2007

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1. Nils, Bruno bor y 1899 at TUKUMS, Latvia

SUBJECT attended a primary and secondary school in RIGA and later studied at Riga University in RIGA, Latvia, and completed his studies at the Law University in RIGA in 1926 or 1927. SUBJECT's father, Dr. Paulis KALWINS, and mother, Klara KALWINS, were both members of the right wing of the Latvian Social-Democratic Party and sat as elected members in the Latvian Parliament. SUBJECT took part in the War of Liberation (Freiheitskrieg) from the years 1919 to 1920. For this reason in 1930 or 1931 the Social Democratic members of the Latvian Parliament demanded that he be appointed a Lieutenant in the Latvian Army. From 1925 until 1934 SUBJECT was known as a left-wing member of the Latvian Social-Democratic Party and as a member of Parliament. SUBJECT was also an organizer and leader of a Latvian youth organization known as "SSS" (Workers Sport and Guard), which became a paramilitary backer of the left-wing of the Social-Democratic Party, although allegedly organized to protect Socialist speakers at political rallies. When Karlis ULMANIS became virtual dictator of Latvia through a coup on 15 May 1934, SUBJECT was among those opposition party leaders arrested and interned. The "SSS" organization was banned by the new government, and caches of weapons belonging to the "SSS" were found at SUBJECT's home. After serving a prison term of two and a half (2 1/2) to three (3) years, SUBJECT went voluntarily to Finland, where he was employed by the Spanish Ministry. He remained in Finland and Sweden until June 1940, when he returned to RIGA, Latvia, following the occupation of Latvia by the Russian Army, to accept an appointment as political leader of the Latvian Army with the rank of General. In the fall of 1940, when the Latvian Army was reduced to the level of a Territorial Corps, SUBJECT became a lecturer on Marxism and Leninism at the University of RIGA. In 1941 SUBJECT was arrested by the German occupying authorities in Latvia. SUBJECT was among a group of former members of the Latvian Parliament who formed the Latvian Central Council, an illegal underground movement in opposition to the German occupation. SUBJECT later was re-arrested by the Germans and placed in a concentration camp at STUTTHOF, Germany. Following the capitulation of Germany in 1945, SUBJECT was liberated and moved to Sweden where he was appointed Chief of the Department for Baltic Affairs by the Social-Democratic Swedish Government. More recently SUBJECT has been teaching at the University in STOCKHOLM, Sweden. (B-3)

An extensive investigation, prompted by the high position SUBJECT occupies in certain Latvian refugee circles and his governmental background, disclosed sharp division between various Latvian refugee groups now residing in various parts of Europe, with consequent division in opinion concerning the degree to which SUBJECT had been a Communist sympathizer. The latest conclusion dated March 1950 indicates a consensus that soon after the Russian occupation of Latvia in 1940 SUBJECT became disillusioned with Communism and since that time has been anti-Russian. There appears to be no doubt that SUBJECT was among the more radical Social-Democrats in years past, and it appears that he looked upon the entrance of Russians into Latvia in 1940 as a distinct opportunity for him to regain high governmental position, which he had lost during the period of the ULMANIS government. Activities of SUBJECT up to the period of the last report (March 1950) indicate that he may still be playing the role of opportunist by attempting to preserve the status of his party while in exile. (B-2)

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